



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mitt Romney, Governor ♦ Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor ♦ Jane Wallis Gumble, Director

FY2006 CDBG One-Year Plan: Preliminary Proposed Changes

1. Program Goals: serve the neediest eligible communities, target resources and have measurable impacts
2. FY2006 applications will require descriptions of anticipated outcomes and measurable improvements using the performance measures defined in the Performance Outcome Measurement System distributed by HUD.
3. Community Development Strategy will be evaluated to determine adequacy – those CD strategies that do not meet the following 3 criteria will not meet the threshold and the application will not be scored:
 - a. The CD Strategy must describe the community's approach to a variety of projects and activities which include, but are not limited to, the subject of the CDBG application;
 - b. The CD Strategy must conclude with a list of projects and activities in order of the priority in which the community intends to undertake to address its community development needs;
 - c. The community must submit evidence that the CD Strategy was discussed at a public forum, meeting or hearing and that the priority list was presented and specifically discussed.
4. All CDBG activities will be subject to the new/revised Sustainable Development Threshold
5. Encourage Social Services that build economic security and self-sufficiency. Increase proportion of social services activities to 30% of a grant if 50% of the funds support services that are designed to build economic security and self sufficiency. The following are Public Social Services that meet this definition:
 - ✓ Job Training
 - ✓ Literacy Programs
 - ✓ English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
 - ✓ Job-Related Childcare Assistance
 - ✓ Job-Related Transportation Assistance
 - ✓ Individual Development Accounts (IDAs)
6. Increase value of Community Wide Needs Scores from 25 points to 35 points. CWN scores will be updated with most recent data (Unemployment Rate and Levy per Capita as a Percent of Per Capita Income). CDF 1: CWN score equal to or greater than 25. CDF 2: CWN score equal to or less than 24.

7. Application project packets will be reduced from 11 packets to 4 – Housing Activities, Construction Activities, Planning Activities, and Social Service Activities. Packets will be worth 65 points; to be determined fundable, a project packet must earn a score of at least 39 points out the possible 65. Community Needs and Community Impact questions will be eliminated.
8. Regional Applications: Each community in a regional application must comply with the same requirements as individual communities in individual applications, in order to participate in a regional grant. For example, each participating community must have a Community Development Strategy that is found to be adequate, the community must have been identified and be part of the required public participation process and the community must submit all required signatures. Communities that fail to comply will be dropped from consideration as a regional participant and the application will be reviewed on the basis of those communities that have complied with the requirements. As a result, the number of participating communities or the dollar amount requested in a regional application may be reduced during the review process.
9. Bonus Points:
 - Regional Activities – fundable projects for activities that serve multiple communities will receive an additional 5 bonus points. Both CDF1 and CDF2 applicants may submit regional applications (no longer limited to regional housing rehab for CDF2). Activities that include multiple projects will receive these points if more than 50% of the funds are for the regional project(s).
 - Geographically Targeted Activities – applications may receive 5 additional bonus points when proposing activities targeted to a particular geographic area (a community with a population under 5,000 may define its entire community as the target area and receive the 5 bonus points).
 - Comprehensive, Integrated Activities – applications may receive 5 additional bonus points when proposing multiple, coordinated activities in a geographic target area. A minimum of two activities must be fundable to receive these 5 bonus points – public social services cannot be one of the two activities.
 - An additional five points will also be awarded if an applicant demonstrates that non-CDBG-funded activities, consistent with the community's Community Development Strategy and complementary to the requested CDBG activities, are also targeted to the same geographic area and will also result in measurable improvements.
 - Applicants will demonstrate this through an additional narrative that lists the CDBG-funded activities, the target area, the anticipated measurable improvements that will result and evidence that the activities are coordinated and integrated.

CRITERION	POINTS
Community Wide Needs	35
Project Packets	65
Total	100
Regional Bonus	5 per activity
Comprehensive/Integrated	Up to 15

11. Mini-Entitlements: required to approach CDBG projects in a coordinated and integrated manner and to target their CDBG funds to particular geographic areas in order to impact and effect change within neighborhoods and to serve an identified neighborhood or target area.

In addition to meeting threshold requirements (including threshold consistency with the Sustainable Development Principles), projects in a Mini-Entitlement application must receive 33 points in a scored application packet in order to be funded. Projects that do not meet all thresholds and do not receive 33 points when scored will not be funded and the community's Mini-Entitlement award will be reduced accordingly.

12. The feasibility of applications will now be scored, in part, based on the completeness of environmental review prior to application submission.
13. Update timely expenditure requirements trigger date and lower the amount allowed from \$600,000 to \$400,000.
14. Eliminate Executive Order 418 requirements and available bonus points.
15. Reorganize tie-breaker criteria:
 - 1) An application from the community or region with the higher Community-Wide Needs score will be funded;
 - 2) Applications for projects that increase the community's supply of housing;
 - 3) Regional applications;
 - 4) Applications for housing and/or economic development projects that are consistent with the goals of the Administration; and
 - 5) If scores remain tied after the application of steps #1 through 4, DHCD will conduct a lottery at which a representative from HUD will be present.
16. HDSP: Applications for funding under the first round of the FY 2006 Housing Development Support Program (HDSP) must include a Community Development Strategy but it will not be reviewed for adequacy under the above criteria. Applicants to the first round of FY2006 HDSP will also not be required to submit the ER checklist with their applications.

Communities applying to HDSP are required to submit an FY2006 Commonwealth Capital Application to the Office for Commonwealth Development no later than the HDSP application due date.